[26th August 1925

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" So far as I remember, subject to verification, what was said with regard to this question was that the Indian Chamber of Commerce had been started for some particular purpose, namely, with reference to the then impending Bill, that it had not been in existence for a long time, that it was not known whether it was transacting commercial or any other business, and that it was started merely to get the right of representation on the board. Now whether it has done anything more or whether it has transacted any business afterwards is a matter on which I will have to satisfy myself. So after looking into the whole matter if the Government are satisfied with the purpose for which the Indian Chamber was formed and if they also find that its scope has been extended, then the matter of introducing a Bill will be considered."

Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar :—" So far as my information goes, it seems to me that the Chamber has addressed the Government on certain matters concerning the trade at Tuticorin and the Tuticorin Port Trust Board. If so, the Government may have some knowledge of the activities of the Chamber. In such a case a Bill may be introduced."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" That will be considered."

Landing and shipping dues at Tuticorin.

*421 Q.—Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of landing and shipping dues for coal at Tuticorin Port is six annas per ton, while the rate for other goods is eleven annas three pies generally;

(b) if so, the reason for the same; and

(c) whether the difference in rates obtains also in other ports in the Presidency ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The rate was reduced in 1924 on the recommendation of the Port Conservancy Board in view of the decrease in revenue from coal since the rate was enhanced.

(c) Yes.

Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar :—" With reference to the answer given in clause (b), may I know whether the desired effect has been obtained ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" So we are told."

Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar :—" Is it with a view to getting more coal or getting more revenue the Government reduced the tax ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I take it that both the motives animated those responsible for the action."

Motor Vehicles Act.

Alleged refusal of a bus service company to convey an Adi-Dravida.

*422 Q.—Mr. R. Veerian : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pachayappan Motor Service Company running from Tiruvannamalai to Samalpatti refused utterly to take into the

bus on 21st May 1925 even Adi-Dravidas holding tickets, and the Chengam police, Tiruvannamalai, tried to get back the ticket amount from the proprietor of the Motor Service Company ; and

(*b*) whether any inquiries were made regarding the matter on a reference being made by me to the Government on 30th May 1925 ?

A.—(*a*) It is a fact that two Adi-Dravidas were required to leave the bus after purchasing tickets. The fare paid by them was, however, refunded through the local police officer.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" The answer given in clause (*a*) is that ' it is a fact that two Adi-Dravidas were required to leave the bus after purchasing tickets '. Now, Sir, they were asked to get down even after purchasing the tickets. This is a damage done not only to the particular Adi-Dravidas but it is a damage to the whole of the Adi-Dravida community. In the rules published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* relating to the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act it is stated that the motor man or the driver should not act in the manner he did. May I know therefore whether the Government will now recommend to the President of the *quasi* Government for the cancellation of the licence ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" There is no President of any ' quasi Government ' so far as I am aware."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I mean the District Board."

11-15 a.m. The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I see. The Government view with great regret such action. It is quite against the spirit of rules published under the Motor Vehicles Act and such steps as the Government is called upon to take to discourage such practices in regard to the issue and the cancellation of licences to these persons, will be adopted. Government are perfectly willing that such cases should be brought to their notice to see that licences are not issued to the managers of those buses who act in this arbitrary and highhanded manner."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I want to know why in this present instance the matter was left alone. Will it be possible to get such an important chance as this."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the conditions of the licences granted to them give them discretion to choose their passengers ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" No."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I ask the hon. Member what is to happen if twenty persons refuse to travel in case two Adi-Dravida passengers are taken in the bus ? Is the proprietor to take the two Adi-Dravidas and send away the twenty others ? I would also like to know how the Motor Vehicles Act will solve all these social disabilities."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The answer is not simple ; it seems to me that if twenty people have purchased tickets and they get

in and two Adi-Dravidas come in and offer fares, and if on that the twenty previous passengers get down, the bus will travel with the last mentioned two persons."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I do not suggest any such thing. I wanted to know the effect if twenty people refuse to purchase tickets in case there were two Adi-Dravidas who had already purchased tickets."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" In such a case, I consider it is not open to the bus driver so long as the number of persons entitled to travel is not exceeded to refuse money for tickets from any one; supposing for instance that two persons who wanted to purchase tickets are Adi-Dravidas, and twenty persons stand there instead of getting in, it will be the look-out of the bus driver to start or not."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" When they themselves had admitted that what they did in the matter was wrong, I want to know why now at least the Government cannot come to the rescue of the poor depressed classes by cancelling the licence of the bus company so as to teach them a lesson ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It is not a question of coming to the rescue of the depressed classes. I hope it will be admitted that these things cannot be done all at once. Of course, Government have impressed upon all these persons and upon all District Magistrates and other functionaries who are authorized to issue licences that very strict and stern notice will be taken of such conduct. Hon. Members cannot expect persons to change their manners and modes of life and of conduct all of a sudden. The Government will take care to see that such things do not recur."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it not a fact that at present the district boards do not issue licences to bus-owners unless they agree to the insertion of a clause that they will not refuse to carry Adi-Dravida passengers. I believe in the North Arcot such is the case."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The Motor Vehicles Rules framed by the Government, I believe, have got such a provision."

Newspapers.

Publication of Government advertisements.

* 423 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of newspapers in which Government advertisements are published ;

(b) whether all the Madras Dailies are given such advertisements and if not, what are the reasons for excluding some ; and

(c) whether any orders have been passed regulating the publication of advertisements by subordinate officers and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay them on the table of the House ?

A.—(a) The Government have not prescribed a list of newspapers in which Government advertisements should be published.

(b) Such newspapers only as are not unsuitable in the opinion of the Government are given advertisements.

(c) The Government are not prepared to publish their orders on the subject.